



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 August 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

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<http://chrome.osis.gov/questionnaire>

The form will only be available for *three more days*, so please fill it out at your earliest convenience. Your participation is important to us! Thank you.

Daily Highlights

- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says the new energy bill contains provisions to enhance security at nuclear power plants, including authorization for guards to use more powerful weaponry and for more extensive background checks for personnel with access to nuclear materials. (See item [4](#))
- The Boston Globe reports that after another close call on the runway, government and airline officials are putting together a runway safety plan to prevent a possibly catastrophic collision at Boston's Logan International Airport. (See item [13](#))
- USA Today reports the government is planning to buy bulk supplies of an experimental vaccine shown to be effective against an avian flu strain that scientists fear could spark a pandemic. (See item [29](#))
- Microsoft released six security bulletins Tuesday, including three bulletins rated "critical." (See item [42](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. ***August 09, Reuters*** — **Ontario urges power conservation as heat strains grid.** Ontario, Canada's power grid operator, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), issued a Power Warning for Tuesday, August 9, asking consumers to reduce their electricity use as sustained hot weather continued to strain the province's power system. The grid operator said the forecast for high temperatures and humidity combined with continued limitations on supply, both from domestic generation and imports, would present a number of challenges for the IESO in managing the reliability of the system. Meteorologists forecast high temperatures would remain at well above-normal levels in the low 90s Fahrenheit on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 10. The IESO said more than 2,500 megawatts of generation was out of service early Tuesday, including ongoing outages at two big nuclear units and a coal unit, and a new outage at an oil unit. The grid operator noted any further reduction in transmission or generation availability or any increase in demand could create shortfalls of electricity and require proactive actions such as emergency purchases from other jurisdictions or a voltage reduction on the Ontario system. The IESO operates the power grid used by more than 11 million people in Ontario and administers the wholesale market with a generating capacity of more than 31,000 MW.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20050809/wl_cana da nm/canada_utilities_ontario_conservation_col_2
2. ***August 09, Associated Press*** — **Air tanker assigned to protect power line.** An air tanker has been assigned to the Interstate 90 fires in Montana to help protect a major Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) power line that supplies electricity to the Pacific Northwest. "This is a high priority fire because of the BPA power lines. We have contingency plans to protect that," said fire information officer Pat McKelvey. "Part of the contingency plan would be that if the fire would make a run toward the power line, the retardant would be used to slow the fire growth," said McKelvey. The West Mountain fire, northwest of Albion, has burned within 1.5 miles from the power line in spots, while the Tarkio fire, northeast of Tarkio, is about 3.5 miles from the power line. Nearly 850 people are working on the I-90 fires, which have grown to 4,300 acres, officials said Tuesday, August 9.
Source: <http://www.billinggazette.com/index.php?tl=1&display=rednew s/2005/08/09/build/state/30-i90-fires.inc>
3. ***August 09, Associated Press*** — **West Virginia mapping its coal.** An ongoing project in West Virginia is trying to figure out how much coal remains in the ground. Coal geologist Nick

Fedorko spoke to a subcommittee of the legislative joint Finance Committee on Monday, August 8. He told the group that the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey has so far drawn highly detailed, computer-based maps of 53 coal beds that snake beneath 31 of the state's 55 counties. A 1939 survey estimated that 116 billion tons of coal, in seams at least one foot thick, lay beneath West Virginia. Fedorko says the Coal Bed Mapping Project will also gauge how much of the resources can be considered reserves, meaning it can be mined economically at any given time. He estimated the survey will map the state's mineable coal within five years, and complete the overall project within 10 years.

Coal Bed Mapping Project: <http://ims.wvgs.wvnet.edu/coalims.htm>

Source: <http://www.wtrf.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=4468>

4. *August 08, Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **Energy bill provides for enhanced security at commercial nuclear facilities.** The energy bill signed on Monday, August 8, by President Bush contains provisions to enhance security at nuclear power plants and other facilities, including authorization for licensee security guards to use more powerful weaponry and more extensive background checks for personnel with access to nuclear materials or safeguards information. Under this legislation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will for the first time have regulatory authority over additional radioactive materials, including certain sources of radium-226 and materials produced in accelerators rather than in reactors. The energy bill also contains specific security-related requirements that in large degree address measures already initiated by the NRC. These include revisions to the agency's design basis threat through rulemaking and establishment of a national tracking system for radioactive sources in the United States. The act also expands criminal penalties for anyone bringing in unauthorized weapons or explosives or committing sabotage at nuclear power plants and other licensee facilities designated by the NRC.

Source: http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-1_09.html

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *August 10, Associated Press* — **Fire rages at a chemical plant in suburban Detroit.** A fire raged at a suburban Detroit chemical plant early Wednesday, August 10, forcing police to evacuate homes in a half-mile radius. Authorities said no injuries were reported, and no one was inside the plant when the fire started. Witnesses described a series of loud explosions that shook the ground and shot flames and smoke into the air. Mayor Alan R. Lambert of Romulus, MI, said one tank exploded then set off explosions in others at the industrial complex. He said air quality was one of the primary concerns and that the intensity of the fire and uncertainty about the chemicals kept firefighting crews from getting too close. Police Chief Charles Kirby said it was unclear what hazardous materials might be involved in the fire, but he urged residents within the half-mile radius to evacuate because materials in the smoke could pose a danger to their health. Romulus, home to Detroit Metropolitan Airport, is about 25 miles southwest of Detroit.

Source: <http://wvgazette.com/section/APNews/News/ap0403n>

6. *August 09, News Channel 9 WSYR (NY)* — **Gas line rupture causes evacuations in New York.** About 30 homes in Cicero, NY, were evacuated Monday afternoon, August 8, because of

a natural gas line break. The gas line broke in front of a home on the corner of Lakeshore and Bayridge Roads in Cicero. The Cicero Highway Department was replacing a storm gutter, when a backhoe hit the eight-inch gas main. The 30 or so homes were within a one-block radius of the break. New York's Niagara Mohawk crews arrived at 3 p.m. Monday, and began repairing the pipe. It took about two hours to fix the problem. At least three fire departments responded to the break, which happened around 1:40 Monday afternoon.

Source: http://www.wixt.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=BD491C48-22EF-4187-B2C1-4A5C17E7AEE7

7. *August 09, KTHV (AK)* — **Arkansas street remains closed after ruptured gas line.** Only 7th Street in Little Rock, AK, now remains closed after a wastewater crew cut through a gas line around 10:00 Tuesday morning, August 9. About 1,000 downtown Little Rock employees were evacuated, but the line was capped at about noon on Tuesday. No illnesses have been reported and fire trucks remained on the scene Tuesday as a precaution. Four buildings were evacuated, including the Southwestern Bell Communications (SBC), Department of Human Services (DHS) and Dicker Law Firm buildings.

Source: <http://kthv.com/news/news.aspx?storyid=18595>

8. *August 08, ABC13 (TX)* — **BP plant suffers chemical leak.** There was another problem Monday, August 8, at the BP refinery in Texas City, TX. Around noon, BP officials say they had a leaking exchanger. It leaked some mixed xylene into a condensate tank. Xylene is a colorless, sweet-smelling and flammable liquid. There was no leak on the ground, no evacuations, and no one was hurt. This follows two major explosions at the plant in four months.

Source: http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/news/080805_local_bprelease.html

9. *August 05, WTOV 9 (OH)* — **Fire destroys tire retreading plant, doctor's office and apartment building in Ohio.** Fire crews from five counties worked for hours to get a fire under control in Woodsfield, OH, Friday, August 5. The fire started at Ohio's Heartland Retreading Plant at 9:30 a.m. and quickly spread to a doctor's office next door. According to Woodsfield Volunteer Fire Department Chief Mike Young, an apartment was also destroyed. He says other buildings had minor smoke and water damage. Young says crews were quick to control the fire, which prevented it from spreading to other nearby businesses. Representatives with the Ohio Fire Marshal's Office are investigating what caused the fire to start.

Source: <http://www.wtov9.com/news/4816474/detail.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

10.

August 09, San Francisco Chronicle — **Hackers hit college computer system.** Hackers have broken into Sonoma State University's computer system, where they had access to the names and Social Security numbers of 61,709 people who either attended, applied, graduated or worked at the school from 1995 to 2002, university officials said on Monday, August 8. So far, there have been no reports of identify theft that can be linked to the break-in, which happened in July. Katharyn Crabbe, vice president for student affairs and enrollment at Sonoma State, said the intruder had found a weakness in a Microsoft Windows operating system that allowed access to seven workstations containing the confidential information. Then, the hacker used the school's system to break into other workstations outside the university. "All we know is that someone was in the room, so to speak," she said. As soon as university officials realized what was happening, they cleaned out the workstations to prevent the hacker from returning, and they are working with Microsoft to repair the weakness in the software, Crabbe said. The compromised data did not contain bank and financial information, credit card or driver's license numbers, she said. The campus is located in Rohnert Park, CA.

Source: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/08/09/BAGLJE50C81.DTL>

11. *August 09, Star-Telegram (TX)* — **Breach exposes school records.** Hackers and administrative errors have compromised personal information of more than 38,000 present, former and prospective University of North Texas students, school officials said. A student who typed his wife's name and Social Security number into a search engine on the Web two weeks ago stumbled upon a file containing 4,571 Web-based financial aid inquiry records from the university, a spokesperson said. The discovery led to the revelation that hackers had breached the university's server. Among the sensitive information at risk were 524 credit card numbers, telephone numbers, Social Security numbers, student ID numbers and passwords. The records were mistakenly compiled and had been in an electronic file since 2001, spokesperson Roddy Wolper said. "We have not heard any evidence that there has been identity theft stemming from this situation," Wolper said. The discovery by the student prompted further computer security checks by the university, and those checks revealed that a server storing 35,848 electronic university housing records dating to 1999 had been accessed by computer hackers. About 1,812 records were stored in both the file found on the Web and the school server. Officials do not know when the server was breached, Wolper said. The campus is located in Denton, TX.

Source: <http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/news/12338655.htm>

12. *August 08, The Direct Marketing Association* — **New poll shows 18% report being identity theft victims.** Experian and the Gallup Organization on Monday, August 8, announced that the latest Experian-Gallup Personal Credit Index finds that 18 percent of consumers report being victims of identity theft, with younger adults at greatest risk. Twenty-five percent of consumers under age 30 report having their financial information stolen, compared with about 18 percent in the middle-aged group and just 11 percent among consumers 65 and older. "The public's perception about how many consumers have suffered identity theft appears fairly accurate, according to the poll, with the median projected percentage at 15 percent — not very far off from the 18 percent measured in the poll," said Ed Ojdana, group president of Experian Interactive. "This makes it all the more concerning that so few consumers are being proactive in protecting their information," continued Ojdana. The poll also finds some significant regional differences. Only 12 percent and 15 percent, respectively, of consumers in the Midwest and South report being victimized, compared with 20 percent and 26 percent, respectively, of consumers in the East and West.

More results for the Personal Credit Index can be found at
<http://www.PersonalCreditIndex.com>
Source: <http://www.the-dma.org/cgi/dispnewsstand?article=3919>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

- 13. *August 09, Boston Globe* — Close calls at Logan stir runway plan.** Federal, state, and airline officials said on Monday, August 8, they are putting together a runway safety plan to prevent a possibly catastrophic collision at Boston's Logan International Airport. The latest close call occurred on Monday, when a FedEx cargo jet with a mechanic at the controls taxied across a runway and forced a passenger jet to delay its takeoff, said Jim Peters, a spokesperson for the Federal Aviation Administration. It was the fourth Logan runway incursion since the most serious recent event, the near-collision of two jets on June 9. Another runway incursion happened on July 20. In Monday's incident, the FedEx mechanic was taking an Airbus A300 to a hangar. The route required him to cross an active runway, where JetBlue Flight 441, bound for Tampa with 124 passengers and six crew members, was about to take off. Peters said the mechanic, who was certified to move the airplane for engine maintenance, verbally acknowledged the tower's instructions to stop, but did not stop. Air traffic controllers canceled the takeoff clearance for the JetBlue plane before it began rolling. The FAA said it is investigating the event as a "surface incident" and not a pilot deviation, because a pilot was not at the controls of the FedEx jet.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2005/08/09/close_calls_at_logan_stir_runway_plan/

- 14. *August 09, Associated Press* — Canada to develop a no-fly list.** Canada is developing a no-fly list in an effort to prevent terrorist attacks and make air travel safer, the federal transport minister has announced. The program, called Passenger Protect, will identify people who pose "an immediate threat to aviation security" and will work with airlines to stop suspects from flying, Transport Minister Jean Lapierre told reporters in Halifax, the provincial capital of Nova Scotia. "This list is going to be revised regularly, and it's not going to be published all over the place," said Lapierre, adding that the list would be ready by 2006 and shared with all airlines, sea ports and border crossings. The U.S. has operated a no-fly list for a few years, following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington DC. The list could help satisfy U.S. demands that Canadian airlines provide passenger lists for all flights that go through U.S. airspace. Washington has been pressuring Ottawa to take a greater role in increasing North American security, particularly along the 4,000-mile border with the U.S.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/TRAVEL/08/09/canada.flier.list.ap/>

- 15. *August 09, Reuters* — Canada plans to act quickly on air safety measures.** Canada's transport minister said on Tuesday, August 9, he will quickly enact any safety recommendations from the investigation into the Air France crash in Toronto last week. "Whether you need more space at the end of the runway and all those things, Transport Canada is looking at that and, as soon as I get a recommendation, we're going to act swiftly," Jean-C. Lapierre told reporters. Lapierre said he would not wait until the final report from the Transportation Safety Board's probe, which could take several months. Investigators have said

the airplane landed almost half way down the 9,000-foot (2,750-meter) runway, and heavy rain on the tarmac may have made it impossible to stop the big jet in time. Some aviation analysts have said the ravine, about 650 feet (200 meters) beyond the end of the tarmac, should be filled in or covered to extend the runway's safety zone. The ravine was the site of an Air Canada crash in 1978 that killed two people. The Air Line Pilots Association has complained about the ravine, saying obstacle-free safety areas are needed beyond the runway.

Source: http://www.metronews.ca/reuters_international.asp?id=88472

16. *August 09, Associated Press* — **Two planes grounded after wings touch at O'Hare.** Two United Airlines planes that were carrying more than 100 passengers each were taken out of service Monday, August 8, after their wings touched while on the ground at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. A plane bound for New York City had stopped and was awaiting clearance for takeoff when another United plane preparing to depart to Washington, DC, clipped its wing, said Jeff Green, a spokesperson for United Airlines. The plane headed to New York was carrying 111 passengers and the plane bound for Washington was carrying 112 passengers, Green said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-08-09-ohare-collision_x.htm

17. *August 08, GovExec* — **TSA revamping shoe-screening policy.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) wants to try clearing passengers through airport security without removing their shoes. TSA, the employer of federal airport security screeners, posted a notice Friday, August 5, for a program this winter to test devices to inspect shoes. Several lawmakers have criticized TSA for requiring passengers — particularly frail, elderly passengers and U.S. soldiers — to take off their footwear before going through metal detectors. TSA began inspecting passengers' shoes after terrorist Richard Reid, also known as the "Shoe Bomber," attempted in 2001 to blow up an airplane by lighting a bomb concealed in his shoe. TSA said it would not guarantee the test project would lead to a contract, and companies must pay the costs related to testing their devices. Companies must submit a "White Paper" on their product by August 22.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0805/080805cdpm1.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

18. *August 09, Craig Daily Press (CO)* — **Horse disease confirmed in Moffat County.** A horse in Moffat, CO, was diagnosed Monday, August 8, with the county's first case of vesicular stomatitis (VS), a highly contagious disease. Craig veterinarian Wayne Davis confirmed the case in a middle-aged female horse. This is the 23rd case of the disease in Colorado this summer. VS is a viral illness that causes horses, cattle, pigs, and sheep sores and lesions on the mouth, hooves, nipples, and teats. Statewide, there are 22 ranches under quarantine for the

disease. If one animal is found on a ranch with the disease, the entire ranch is quarantined until three weeks after the disease heals on every animal. Linh Truong, a spokesperson with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, said VS is a concern because it closely resembles foot and mouth disease and because it causes rapid weight loss.

Source: http://www.craigdailypress.com/section/frontpage_lead/story/18269

19. *August 09, Grand Forks Herald (ND)* — **Blight scars wheat crop.** When it comes to the Northern Plains spring wheat crop, looks may be deceiving. "There are pretty good stands from the road," says Jim Peterson, North Dakota Wheat Commission marketing director. However, a walking tour of fields reveals that leaf diseases and Fusarium head blight have taken more of a toll on some stands than appears during a "windshield" tour, Peterson says. Crop scouts who toured Spring wheat and durum fields in northern South Dakota, North Dakota, and western Minnesota spent three days in late July walking hundreds of wheat fields to analyze yields and quality. Scouts, farmers, and other crops experts say damage to the wheat from Fusarium head blight appears to be primarily in northeast North Dakota and northwest Minnesota fields. Fusarium head blight is the most severe it has been in five or six years, says Ken Nichols, Grand Forks, ND, extension agent. The disease, commonly known as scab, is worrying farmers because they know it will result in fewer bushels in the hopper, Nichols says. In northwest Minnesota, early wheat harvest reports indicated that wheat quality is pretty good despite the most severe scab infestation the area has had in 10 years, says David Torgerson, Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers spokesperson.

Source: <http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/business/12336166.htm>

20. *August 09, Des Moines Register (IA)* — **New center for agriculture to safeguard livestock, crops.** An office to coordinate agricultural security will help safeguard Iowa's livestock and crops, Iowa Agriculture Secretary Patty Judge announced Monday, August 8. The Center for Agriculture Security will be housed in the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The center will work with local authorities and other state and national agencies concerned with agroterrorism or disaster response in case of an outbreak of an infectious animal or crop disease. David Miller, administrator for the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, said the center "will help us to bring additional focus to our state's efforts to protect our valuable agricultural resources." Judge said the center will work with Miller's division, which is part of the Iowa Department of Public Safety, to pool the state's resources. Iowa agriculture contributes more than \$13 billion a year to Iowa's economy, Judge said, and accounts for more than 160,000 jobs.

Source: <http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2005/0809/BUSINESS01/508090364/1029/BUSINESS>

21. *August 09, Missouri Ag Connection* — **Single spore resembling soybean rust in Missouri.** In their ongoing effort to track the movement of Asian soybean rust, the University of Missouri (MU) and the Missouri Department of Agriculture have reported the collection of a single fungal spore that resembles the spores of soybean rust. "Although only tentative identification is possible, we did collect one 'rust-like' spore in Boone County," said Laura Sweets, Extension plant pathologist with the MU Commercial Agriculture Program. "However, soybean rust spores aren't unique enough to be distinguished from other fungal spores." To date, there have been no reports or confirmation of soybean rust on soybeans or alternate hosts such as kudzu in Missouri, she said. Similar reports of "rust-like" spores have occurred in Louisiana, Kentucky,

Tennessee, and most recently, Illinois. "Ten spores were reported from a spore trap in Louisiana in June, but soybean rust has not yet been confirmed on soybean plants in that state," Sweets said. "In mid-July, both Kentucky and Tennessee also had reports of possible soybean rust spores from spore traps, and soybean rust has not yet been found in soybeans in either of these states. 'Rust-like' spores also have been reported in Illinois, and scouting there is ongoing. Source: <http://www.missouriagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=478&y r=2005>

22. *August 08, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **More spores found in three Kentucky traps.** Three of the 10 spore traps in Kentucky have captured rust-like spores recently. Traps in Ballard, Caldwell, and Shelby counties had 10, three, and one spore(s), respectively. No rust has been found in Kentucky this year. "These spores finds should not be cause for alarm. The spores may or may not be those of the soybean rust fungus. The best we can say at this time is that their appearance is consistent with spores of the soybean rust fungus. As with past spore finds, these new spore finds may have little or no bearing on the soybean rust situation," said Don Hershman, Extension plant pathologist at the University of Kentucky. Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=494>

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Food Sector

23. *August 09, United Press International* — **European Union approves gene-altered maize.** The European Commission has authorized the import and marketing of genetically modified maize used in animal feed. Despite opposition from 14 member states, the commission Monday, August 8, granted the producer Monsanto authorization to market the MON 863 maize within the European Union during the next ten years. However, the crop, which has been modified to resist corn rootworm, cannot be sold as human food or for cultivation and it will be subject to strict labeling and traceability rules, the commission said. Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/upi/20050809-104353-6877r.htm>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

24. *August 09, Associated Press* — **Bird flu kills one more person in Vietnam.** A 35-year-old man from southern Vietnam died of avian flu, health officials said Tuesday, August 9. The man from the southern Mekong Delta province of Ben Tre died on July 31. He tested positive for the H5N1 flu virus on Saturday, August 6, said Phan Van Tu, chief virologist at the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City. A total of 61 people have died of bird flu in the region, including 42 in Vietnam. Nguyen Huu Sinh, director of Ben Tre provincial Preventive Medicine Center, said the man fell ill July 25, a week after he butchered and ate two dead chickens given to him

by his mother and a neighbor.

Source: http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/headline/world/3302_066

25. *August 09, KWTX (TX)* — **Local agencies to participate in statewide medication delivery exercise.** Hill County, TX, was the site of a mock dispensing site Tuesday, August 9, as the Governor's Division of Emergency Management conducted a multi-county drill to determine how efficiently medication could be distributed from the federal Strategic National Stockpile in the event of a large-scale bioterrorism attack involving the release of harmful bacteria or viruses. It's the first large exercise to evaluate the delivery system in Texas. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will evaluate the exercise, as it has in other states where similar exercises have been held.

Source: <http://www.kwtx.com/news/headlines/1659371.html>

26. *August 09, Washington Post* — **Millions in District bioterrorism grants not tracked.** The Washington, DC, Department of Health has failed to properly track \$3.6 million in federal grants awarded since 2002 to prepare local hospitals for a bioterrorism attack, and nearly half of the money has gone unspent, a federal audit reported. District health officials did not upgrade accounting systems to track the funds as required. They blamed personnel, contracting, and budgeting delays for the spending bottleneck, according to a report released Thursday, August 4, by the inspector general's office of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Eighteen hospitals that are members of the DC Hospital Association have received \$15,000 to \$150,000 each under the program, according to the association. The money is earmarked for 15 priorities, mainly surge capacity. However, the capital region has acquired only 444 beds toward a federal target of 3,000, the association said. In June, the inspector general's office found that the DC Health Department had failed to spend about half of \$24.5 million in federal grants awarded to the city since 1999 for public health preparedness. HHS officials said that the audit of the DC grant was part of a nationwide review of bioterrorism preparedness spending.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/09/AR2005080900016.html>

27. *August 09, PLoS Biology* — **Malaria infection increases attractiveness of humans to mosquitoes.** Do malaria parasites enhance the attractiveness of humans to the parasite's vector? As such manipulation would have important implications for the epidemiology of the disease, the question has been debated for many years. To investigate the issue in a semi-natural situation, researchers assayed the attractiveness of 12 groups of three western Kenyan children to the main African malaria vector, the mosquito *Anopheles gambiae*. In each group, one child was uninfected, one was naturally infected with the asexual (non-infective) stage of *Plasmodium falciparum*, and one harbored the parasite's gametocytes (the stage transmissible to mosquitoes). The children harboring gametocytes attracted about twice as many mosquitoes as the two other classes of children. In a second assay of the same children, when the parasites had been cleared with anti-malarial treatment, the attractiveness was similar between the three classes of children. In particular, the children who had previously harbored gametocytes, but had now cleared the parasite, were not more attractive than other children. This ruled out the possibility of a bias due to differential intrinsic attractiveness of the children to mosquitoes and strongly suggests that gametocytes increase the attractiveness of the children.

Source: <http://biology.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-docume>

28. *August 09, Reuters* — World Health Organization: Russian bird flu epidemic to fade soon.

A bird flu epidemic in Russia is subsiding and should disappear by late August, a World Health Organization (WHO) official said on Tuesday, August 9. "Things are quietening down. The (epidemic) will vanish in 10 to 15 days," Oleg Kiselyov, head of a research institute operating under the WHO's auspices, told reporters. "It won't spread further because of changing weather conditions. It's never warm enough in Siberia in late August." The highly potent H5N1 strain, which has struck mainly in the western Siberian region of Novosibirsk, has killed over 50 people in Asia since 2003. Russia's top epidemiologist, Gennady Onishchenko, said it was too early to draw rosy conclusions. "The (epidemic) is being localized. Its spread is currently limited to five regions, but that does not mean that birds could not be dying somewhere else." There were also fears among Russian veterinary officials that migrating birds could take the virus to other countries. "It's possible that they (birds) have already spread it (beyond Russia)," Yevgeny Nepoklonov, deputy head of the state veterinary watchdog, told Interfax. "They (birds) fly not only over Siberia but also along the far eastern coast on to the U.S. Some birds fly along the Kazakh border from Novosibirsk water reservoirs and then on to the (Volga town) of Volgograd."

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L09682422.htm>

29. *August 08, USA Today* — Government to stock up on avian flu shots. The government is planning to buy bulk supplies of an experimental vaccine shown to be effective against an avian flu strain that scientists fear could spark a pandemic. But how much of it can be produced, and when, is unclear, health officials said Monday, August 8. "We have put out a request for proposals, and are currently evaluating them from manufacturers, to determine how much additional vaccine could be produced over the next couple of months so as not to interfere with flu vaccine for the upcoming fall or the following year's flu vaccine," said Bruce Gellin, director of the National Vaccine Program Office within the Department of Health and Human Services. Last month, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced plans to stockpile enough of the new vaccine for 20 million people and enough anti-viral medication to treat 20 million people should they become infected. The U.S. currently has stockpiled 2.3 million courses of anti-virals, enough for less than one percent of the population. The additional medication, which Gellin says has been ordered, will bring that up to just under seven percent of the population.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2005-08-08-bird-flu_x.htm

30. *August 08, Archives of Internal Medicine* — The burden of Staphylococcus aureus infections on hospitals in the U.S. Previous studies have investigated the impact of Staphylococcus aureus infections on individual hospitals, but to date, no study using nationally representative data has estimated this burden. Researchers performed a retrospective analysis of the 2000 and 2001 editions of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Nationwide Inpatient Sample database, which represents a stratified 20 percent sample of hospitals in the U.S. All inpatient discharge data from 994 hospitals in 28 states during 2000 and from 986 hospitals in 33 states during 2001, representing approximately 14 million inpatient stays, were analyzed to determine the association of S. aureus infections with length of stay, total charges, and in-hospital mortality. S. aureus infection was reported as a discharge diagnosis for 0.8 percent of all hospital inpatients. Inpatients with S. aureus infection had, on average, three times the

length of hospital stay (14.3 vs 4.5 days), three times the total charges (\$48,824 vs \$14,141), and five times the risk of in-hospital death (11.2 percent vs 2.3 percent) than inpatients without this infection. *S. aureus* infections represent a considerable burden to U.S. hospitals, particularly among high-risk patient populations. The potential benefits to hospitals in terms of reduced use of resources and costs as well as improved outcomes from preventing *S. aureus* infections are significant.

Source: <http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/165/15/1756>

31. *August 08, Agence France Presse* — Asia still lacks comprehensive flu pandemic plan.

Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region have yet to draw up firm plans to fight a potential flu pandemic, with poorer countries posing the greatest risk to the international community, health officials say. Experts fear the H5N1 bird flu virus could mutate into a form easily passed from person to person, creating a powerful new strain of influenza that could catch governments off guard and kill millions of people worldwide. The World Health Organization said only seven Asian governments have approved plans to fight a flu pandemic, even though sixty people have died of bird flu in Asia since 2003.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050808/hl_afp/healthasiaflu_050808201659;_ylt=At2tCWJg3oS2yWhO3rOJ6iGJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU1

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Government Sector

32. *August 09, Los Angeles Times* — Public lands are seeing more pot growing. Famed for the biggest trees in the world, California's Sequoia National Park is now No. 1 in another flora department: marijuana growing, with more land carved up by pot growers than any other park. So far, park visitors and the growers rarely cross paths; the pot farms are in areas with little public appeal — remote slopes at lower, hotter elevations. However, officials report five encounters between gun-wielding growers and visitors on national forest lands in California this year. The growers poach wildlife, spill pesticides, divert water from streams and dump tons of trash. Yet enforcement lags. Rangers say they lack helicopters and manpower, and elected officials have other priorities, including homeland security and fighting drug cartels in South and Central America. In the last year, 100,000 marijuana plants have been removed from California national parks, including 44,000 from Sequoia.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/travel/outdoors/la-os-potfarm9aug09.1.2274508.story?coll=la-headlines-outdoors>

33. *August 09, Government Technology* — Two Virginia cities link via high-speed fiber optics.

The cities of Arlington and Alexandria, in Virginia, have built a high-speed fiber optic interconnection linking each jurisdiction's Institutional Network (I-Net). The dedicated, secure fiber link between Arlington and Alexandria will initially be used for voice and video applications for public safety. The fiber link uses existing cable fiber and is the first step in creating a series of Northern Virginia regional interconnections. According to the city of Arlington, future applications for the Alexandria-Arlington fiber link include: connecting emergency operation centers of the two jurisdictions; videoconferencing for inter-jurisdictional meetings; sharing building permit, GIS, tax, and criminal identification databases; integrated

traffic management between neighboring communities; and back-up connections to radio controllers in neighboring communities,

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=96197>

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Emergency Services Sector

- 34. *August 09, Los Alamos Monitor (NM)* — Experts share crucial knowledge with first responders.** Experts from New Mexico's Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Decontamination Proficiency Team travel the region sharing crucial knowledge with first responders. During their Decontamination Proficiency Testing and Mass Causality Incidents training program, LANL Hazmat specialists David Volz and Fred Bolton evaluate existing decontamination procedures to reveal and repair trouble spots. They train firefighters, Hazmat responders, military response teams, law enforcement officials, emergency medical workers, public health workers, safety professionals and others with potential exposure to or the need to decontaminate people and equipment following Hazmat incidents involving nuclear, chemical, or biological contamination. Volz and Bolton kicked off a three-day training program for firefighters in Santa Fe, NM, Tuesday morning, August 9. Six groups of fire department personnel were trained to quickly and cleanly remove Hazmat suits contaminated with liquids, powders and a gooey substance. As careful as the trainees were, a black light revealed significant areas of contamination on their simulated "skin" jump suits worn under their outer Hazmat suits. Small and large fire departments share the same Hazmat issues. Most departments think the procedures they're using are adequate until they go through the LANL training program. LANL will sponsor an annual Hazmat challenge in August.
Source: http://www.lamonitor.com/articles/2005/07/27/headline_news/news04.txt

- 35. *August 09, The Daily American (IL)* — Illinois fire department personnel to receive more training.** The West Frankfort, IL, fire department will upgrade their level of emergency care thanks to a cooperative effort with Franklin Hospital and Mercy Regional Ambulance Service in Illinois. West Frankfort firemen must achieve the advanced training level for paramedics to legally administer cardiac drugs during a heart attack or other heart related incidents. Currently, the fire department must call on Mercy Regional Hospital to administer those types of drugs. Hervey Davis, Chief Executive at the Franklin Hospital in Benton, IL, has offered the hospital as a training base for the fire fighters and said the hospital will also help the group in obtaining funding to cover costs for training and equipment. "What it's going to do is enhance our service and the probability of us calling for a paramedic intercept will be reduced substantially," Fire Chief Larry Jamrozek said. Davis said the goal is to take the firemen who are not trained for advanced life support and give them the training to be able to administer cardiac care and advanced emergency care to patients. Davis said with the cooperation of the county's ambulance provider, who already has advanced training, West Frankfort will have more timely and efficient medical care.
Source: <http://www.dailyamericannews.com/articles/2005/08/08/news/news3.txt>

- 36. *August 09, The Daily Herald (UT)* — Firefighters from across Utah train at local college.** Utah Valley State College's (UVSC) Utah Fire and Rescue Academy will host the state's largest fire training event of the year Friday through Sunday, August 19–21, at the Orem and Airport

campuses. The 39th Annual Utah Fire School will offer 27 different hands-on courses to teach firefighters skills ranging from arson detection and smoke reading to emergency medical service (EMS) response and vehicle extraction. More than 400 firefighters from across Utah and as far away as Georgia are expected to attend the training. "The greatest thing about this is getting a diverse group together to share their own experiences," said Steve Watts, director of basic training. "They learn as much from each other as the instructors, and that's often the most valuable education."

Source: <http://www.harktheherald.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=61629>

37. *August 09, Associated Press* — **Washington improves tsunami preparedness.** When an earthquake off the California coast triggered a tsunami warning on Tuesday, June 14, an alert system in Ocean Shores, WA, was never activated because a faulty phone line failed to get the message to several coastal areas. Instead of a siren and a recorded message telling residents to evacuate, the All-Hazard Alert Broadcasting (AHAB) system located on that beach stood silent. Governor Christine Gregoire on Monday, August 8, announced a plan to ensure that coastal residents have enough time to get to higher ground in case an earthquake triggers a potentially deadly wave. Gregoire said much of the work will be done in coordination with federal plans for tsunami preparedness, but she also said that she will seek federal funding and money from the state legislature next year to install additional AHAB systems along the coast. Major General Timothy Lowenberg, director of the Washington's emergency management division, said while two more structures are already being installed, an additional 90 are required for full coastal protection. Lowenberg said several improvements have already been made since the June warning, including ensuring there are additional backup phone circuits to relay warnings in case one malfunctions.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/weather/resources/2005-08-09-tsunami-warning-system_x.htm

38. *August 09, WAVY 10 (VA)* — **Virginia agency gets grant to help residents prepare for terrorism attacks.** The Newport News, VA, Office of Human Affairs has received a grant to prepare low-income residents for terrorist attacks. The Office of Human Affairs provides aid to low-income, Virginia residents of Newport News, Hampton and Poquoson. It's one of ten anti-poverty agencies nationwide to receive a \$10,000 Homeland Security grant to establish terrorism-preparedness programs. Newport News was chosen because of its proximity to military bases and the Surry nuclear power plant. The city will match the grant with \$10,000.

Source: <http://www.wavy.com/Global/story.asp?S=3694917>

39. *August 09, Honolulu Advertiser (HI)* — **Children learn disaster preparedness in Hawaii.** A special weeklong disaster preparedness training course hosted by Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has given children attending Hoala School's summer Camp Kokua in Wahiawa, HI, a perspective on what to do when emergencies occur. Jeff Spencer, Oahu Civil Defense's Community Emergency Response Team coordinator, scaled down the normal 25 hour adult disaster preparedness course to create a 15 hour session for the children. "As a scout, I learned basic first aid — how to stop bleeding — so I think it's important to teach disaster preparedness to them," Spencer said of CERT's first-ever attempt at offering training to children. "The number one thing we tell them is that (during a disaster) they need to listen to their parents." The children received basic first aid instruction, were taught about natural

disasters and informed about what to do. They were later tested for certification.

Source: <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Aug/09/in/508.090319.html>

40. *August 08, The Herald Star (OH)* — New area vehicle to aid during emergencies in Ohio.

Improved communication between Ohio police officers, government officials, firefighters and sheriff's deputies will be possible in the near future, thanks to the state-of-the-art communications technology and equipment provided inside the area's new interoperability vehicle. The vehicle contains a new frequency system that will provide advanced-stages of communication between officials. "Features inside the truck include 19 mobile radio frequencies to be used to contact emergency medical services, police and fire departments," according to C.J. Couch, chief of public affairs with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. Technology already installed inside the truck includes cell phones, landline telephones, computers, fax machines, printers, weather stations and infrared cameras. First responders to emergency situations will receive the opportunity to use the mobile communications vehicle during large-scale incidents such as terrorist attacks, floods, tornados and building collapses, according to officials. The mobile communications vehicles are being paid for by federal homeland security funding and are managed by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency along with the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association. According to officials, terror attacks are the first and foremost reason these interoperability vehicles were created.

Source: http://www.hsconnect.com/news/story/088202005_new02news08060_5.asp

41. *August 08, Inside Bay Area (CA)* — Identification device makes an imprint on California police.

The San Leandro, CA, Police Department took part in a field test of what could become the latest high-tech tool to aid law enforcement. The device — called a Biometric Identification System — captures a thumbprint image and, using a computer linked to a database, provides a person's identity with the click of a button. Lieutenant Pete Ballew said officers in the department who field-tested five of the systems were impressed with the device, which integrates cell phone, computer and image-capturing technologies. "Right now, it's kind of in its infancy," Ballew said of the system. It gives patrol units a computerized tool they can use to identify people who don't have identification on them when they are stopped by patrol officers. The wireless device also provides criminal history information and any mug shots that are stored in the database — all within a matter of minutes. For law enforcement agencies, the device — when made available — can save valuable time when trying to identify potentially dangerous criminals.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_2923304?rss

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

42. *August 09, Redmond Magazine* — Microsoft patches nine security vulnerabilities. Microsoft released six security bulletins Tuesday, August 9, including three bulletins rated "critical." All six bulletins involved Windows, and one of the bulletins also involved Internet Explorer. The most serious of the bulletins is a cumulative security update for Internet Explorer (MS05-038). The bulletin, which also applies to some versions of Windows, addresses three security flaws. Two of those are critical flaws that allow an attacker to take complete control of a computer over the Internet. The other flaw allows information disclosure. As a cumulative update for IE,

the patch sets a kill bit for older versions of certain objects that have known security vulnerabilities. Those objects include the Microsoft HTML Help ActiveX control, the Microsoft MSAgent ActiveX control and a SharePoint Portal Services logging ActiveX control. The patch also changes the way IE Favorites behaves to close off a class of vulnerabilities. Another bulletin patches a critical vulnerability found in Windows Plug and Play that can allow remote code execution and elevation of privilege (MS05–039). The other bulletin involving a critical flaw is MS05–043 for a vulnerability in the Windows Print Spooler Service that could allow remote code execution.

Microsoft Security Bulletin Summary for August 2005:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms05-aug.msp>

Source: <http://www.redmondmag.com/news/article.asp?EditorialsID=6852>

43. *August 08, Security Focus* — PHPSiteStats unspecified authentication bypass vulnerability.

PHPSiteStats is prone to an unspecified authentication bypass vulnerability. A successful attack can allow unauthorized attackers to bypass the authentication routines and gain access to the application. An attacker may then carry out other attacks against the vulnerable computer.

PHPSiteStats 1.0 is prone to this issue. Other versions may be vulnerable as well.

The vendor has released PHPSiteStats 1.1 to address this issue:

http://prdownloads.sourceforge.net/phpsitestats/phpsitestats_1.1.zip?download

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14493/solution>

44. *August 08, Secunia* — Two vulnerabilities reported in SysCP. Two vulnerabilities have been

reported in SysCP, which can be exploited by malicious people to compromise a vulnerable system. 1) Input passed to a certain parameter is not properly verified before being used to include a language file. This can be exploited to include arbitrary files from external resources. 2) Input passed to the internal template engine is insufficiently sanitized, which can be exploited to inject arbitrary PHP code. Successful exploitation requires that register_globals is enabled. The vulnerabilities have been reported in versions 1.2.10 and prior.

Users should update to version 1.2.11. <http://www.syscp.de/wiki/EnDownloads>

Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/16347/>

45. *August 08, Secunia* — Comdev eCommerce file inclusion vulnerability. A vulnerability has

been discovered in Comdev eCommerce, which can be exploited by malicious people to compromise a vulnerable system. Input passed to the "path[docroot]" parameter is not properly verified, before it is used to include files. This can be exploited to include arbitrary files from external and local resources. Example: [http://\[host\]/oneadmin/config.php?path\[docroot\]=\[file\]](http://[host]/oneadmin/config.php?path[docroot]=[file]) Successful exploitation requires that "magic_quotes_gpc" is disabled. The vulnerability has been confirmed in version 3.1. Other versions may also be affected. Solution: Edit the source code to ensure that input is properly verified.

Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/16346/>

46. *August 08, Application Security, Inc.* — Buffer overflow in MySQL user defined functions.

User-defined functions in MySQL allow a user in the database to call binary libraries on the operating system. Creating a user-defined function requires insert privileges on the mysql.func table. The init_syms() function uses an unsafe string function to copy a user specified string into a stack based buffer. Due to improper sanitation this buffer is able to be overflowed, overwriting portions of the stack. This allows an attacker to write 14 bytes of arbitrary data and

eight bytes of hard coded data beyond the end of the buffer. Exploiting this vulnerability would require the ability to create user-defined functions. This is not typically granted to untrusted users.

MySQL versions 4.0.25, 4.1.13, or 5.0.7-beta have been patched:

<http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/>

Source: <http://www.appsecinc.com/resources/alerts/mysql/2005-002.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT has seen reports indicating an increase in scanning activity of port 6070/tcp. This port is used by Computer Associates BrightStor ARCserve. Recently, Computer Associates released security advisory (Vulnerability ID: 33239) describing a vulnerability in BrightStor ARCserve. Since this time exploits have been published that take advantage of this vulnerability. More information about this vulnerability can be found in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note: VU#279774 – Computer Associates BrightStor ARCserve Backup Agents vulnerable to buffer overflow While reports of successful system compromises using this vulnerability have not been confirmed, US-CERT encourages BrightStor ARCserve users to upgrade or install patches, as recommended by Computer Associates vulnerability description.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (—), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6881 (bittorrent), 139 (netbios-ssn), 135 (epmap), 53 (domain), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 32772 (sometimes-rpc7), 137 (netbios-ns)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

47. *August 09, Press of Atlantic City (NJ)* — **Program to prepare New Jersey casino workers for the worst.** Part of Atlantic City, NJ's, plan for enhanced preparedness calls for the addition of emergency responders in each of its casinos. The Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, trains civilians to respond to emergencies. "We plan to have teams available in each casino hotel," said Tom Foley, Atlantic City's emergency management coordinator. In case of an attack or natural disaster, each casino would have people available to help. "It teaches them

how to handle things, what to look for, what to stay away from, how to help customers and their fellow employees if anything should happen," Foley said. Training courses are offered in topics such as disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, disaster psychology and terrorism.

Source: http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/atlantic/080905CERT_A09.cfm

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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